

Course Name: Tree/Shrub/Windbreak Planting - Module	
Course Coordinator: State Forester	Course Number: MI0031

Overview:

This course covers the basic elements of tree/shrub planting for a variety of purposes but concentrates emphasis on reforestation, and windbreak/shelterbelts. Some discussion is held on tree/shrub planting for riparian forest buffers, alleycropping, beautification and upland wildlife habitat management. Methods of inventorying and evaluating sites for planting will be covered. This will include a discussion of the use of aerial photos, soils maps and typical landowner information needed to match appropriate species to the site and planting purpose. The proper method(s) of site preparation, planting, handling and storing planting stock will be demonstrated along with pest control measures and post-planting followup. Proper documentation and use of appropriate planning aids such as: Conservation Practice Standards, Conservation Sheets and other aids will be demonstrated.

Purpose:

To provide the trainee with necessary information and knowledge needed to plan, apply and properly document Conservation Practices Tree/Shrub Planting (612) and Standard Windbreak/Shelterbelt (380) and typical supporting practices, including cover Crop (340), Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490), Herbaceous Weed Control (315), and Mulching (484). The trainee will receive some exposure to other conservation practices in which Tree/Shrub Planting may be a component: Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Alley Cropping (311), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) and Critical Area Planting (342).

Prerequisites:

- Participants must have read and understood the following documents:
 - Conservation Tree/Shrub Suitability Guides in Section II, Michigan Field Office Technical Guide
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) Conservation Practice Standard
 - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation and Establishment Conservation Design Sheet (490/612)
 - MSU-E Bulletin E-771, Tree Planting in Michigan
 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) Conservation Practice Standard
 - Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) Conservation Design Sheet
- (Strongly recommended) Plant ID Trees and Shrubs Module, MI0029

Duration:

This is a two-part, one-day course. Part one is conducted in the classroom (approximately 4 hours). Part two is conducted in the field (approximately 3 hours).

Target Audience:

All NRCS and conservation partnership employees who provide conservation planning assistance to landusers.

Expected Outcomes:

The minimum conservation planning proficiency level expected of participants is “4. Apply independently – can perform independently unless special problems are encountered; only a general check of work is required”

Resources needed:Part 1 (classroom):

- Room with tables and chairs for 8 to 25 participants
- Computer with projector and a projector screen
- Hand planting tools, shelters, etc. for demonstration

Part 2 (field exercise):

- One or more sites scheduled to be planted to woody plants
- Tree seedlings, material to keep roots moist
- Shears for root pruning
- Hand planting tools (1 per 4 attendees)
- Tree planting machine, tractor and operators (if possible)
- Tree shelters and stakes (if needed or for demonstration)
- Weed control fabric (if needed or for demonstration)
- Tape measure(s)
- Clipboards, paper, pencil, etc.

Outline for: Tree/Shrub, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Planting - Module

Part 1 – Classroom

Review outline of course and objectives

Tree/shrub planting purposes

Overview of Practice Standards – applicability, design, certification

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Supporting practices

Cover Crop (340)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)

Herbaceous Weed Control (315)

Mulching (484)

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380)

Using Conservation Tree/Shrub Suitability Groups

Other Resources

MSUE publications

Soil Survey information

Preparation for field exercise

Review aerial photos, soils maps, soil survey info

Discuss clients objectives, site limitations, etc.

Determine planting design (group exercise – 3 to 5 participants/group)

Part 2 – Field Planting Exercise

Review planting plan

Prepare planting stock (root pruning, sorting, etc.)

Demonstrate mechanical planter

Take turns hand planting

Discuss Maintenance

Follow-up weed control

Herbivore protection

Group discussion and conclusion

Course evaluation